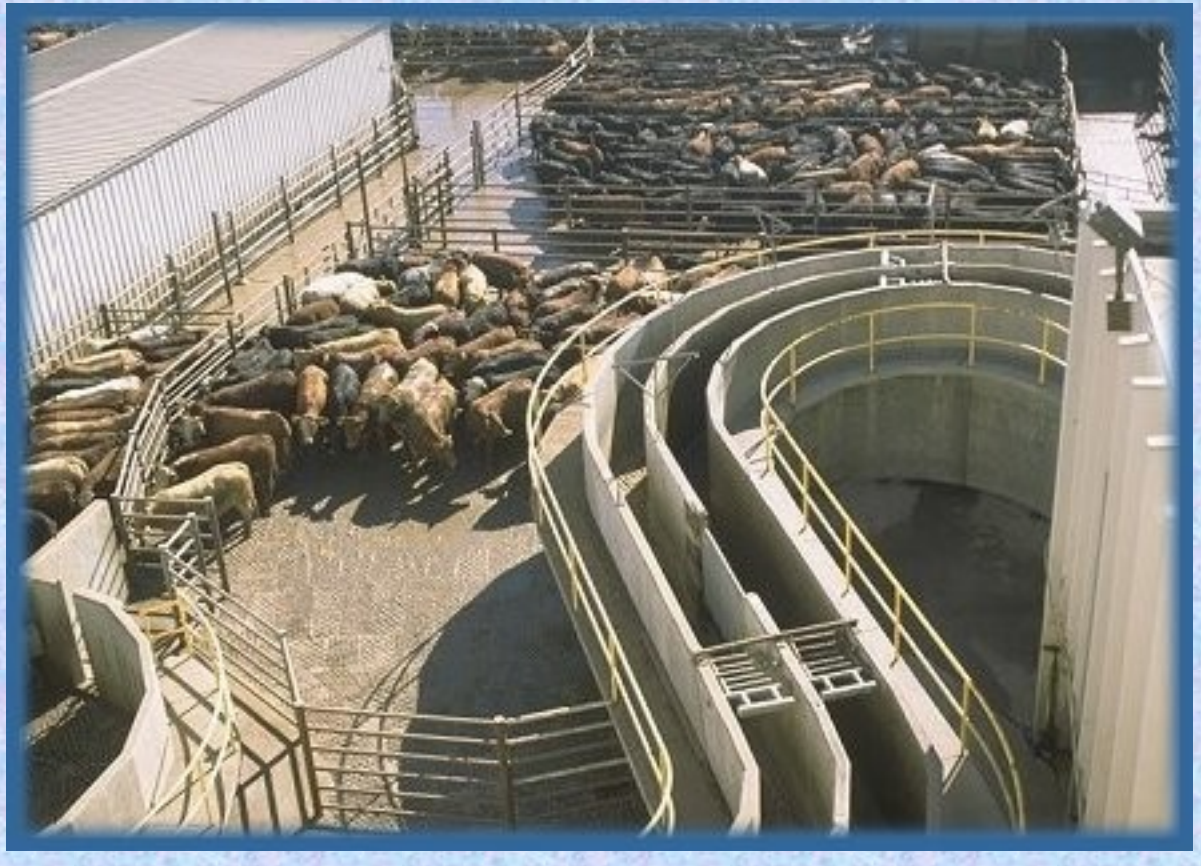
Antemortem Inspection

Basic Meat Inspection



Definition

- “Ante” means “before”
- “Mortem” means “death”
- All animals presented for slaughter must receive antemortem inspection by:
  - VMO
  - inspector under VMO

Purpose

- accept only those animals that are healthful, safe from harmful chemical and drug residues, and capable of being converted into wholes

Antemortem Inspection

- Screening process to remove obviously diseased animals
- Identifies animals that require extensive postmortem examination by the VMO
- First line of defense in protecting the public from potentially harmful meat products.

Abnormal Animals

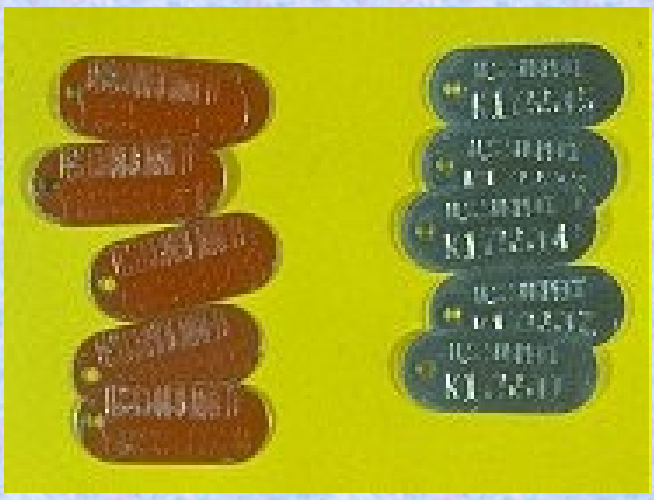
- Must be segregated for examination by the VMO

When is Antemortem Performed?

- "All livestock offered for slaughter in an official establishment shall be examined and inspected on the day of, and before, slaughter” - Regs 309
  - Exception : delayed slaughter to be discussed later

Where is Antemortem Performed?

- "Such antemortem inspection shall be made in pens on the premises of the establishment at which the livestock are offered for slaugh



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION OPERATIONS

IDENTIFICATION TAG - ANTE MORTEM

SLAUGHTER AT ESTAB.NO. 38

~~CONDEMNED OR~~ SUSPECT ~~THIS NO.~~
UNTAGGED

KIND OF ANIMAL: HOLSTEIN | SEX: COWS

TAGGED FOR: EPITHELIOMA

TEMPERATURE | WEIGHT

REMARKS
5 ANIMALS W/ OBVIOUS LESIONS

INSPECTOR: D. SMITH | DATE: 9/9/99

POST MORTEM REPORT

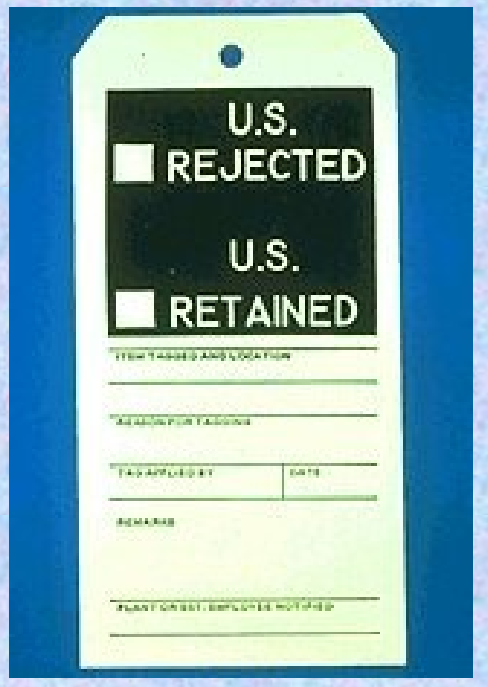
FINDINGS:

DISPOSAL

INSPECTOR | DATE

FSIS FORM 6150-1 (3/86)

REPLACES MP FORM 402-2 (3/83), WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED.

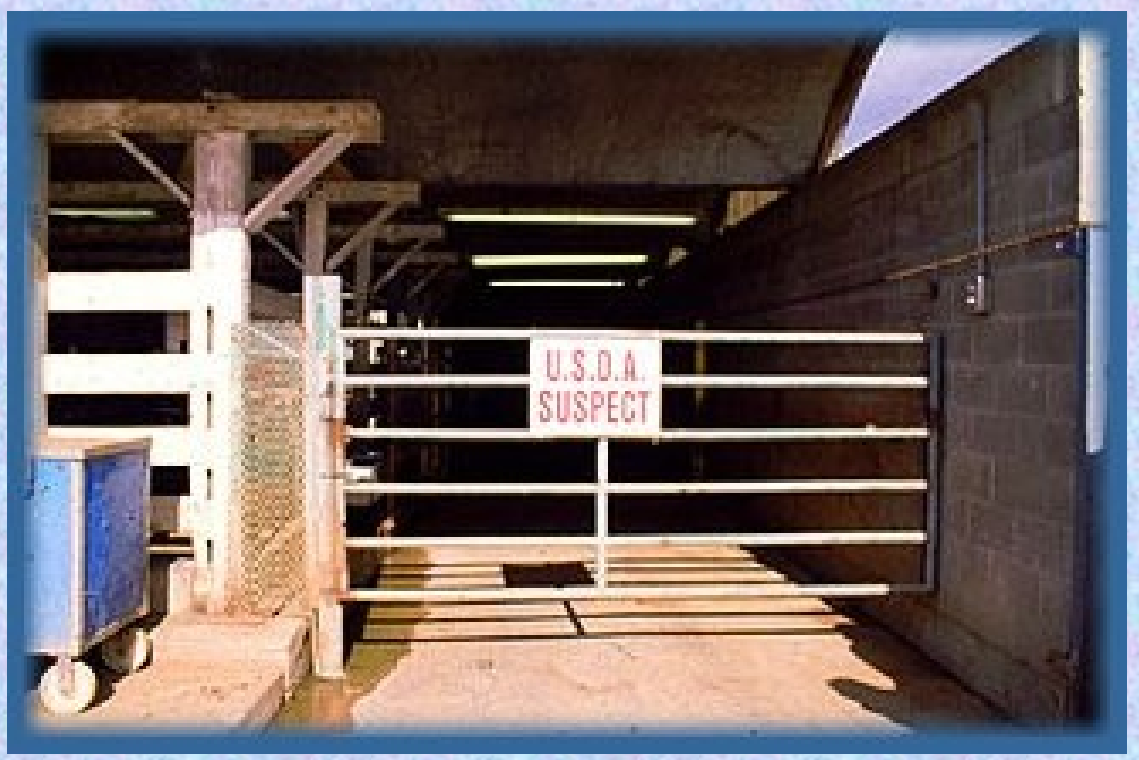


Sanitation Requirements

- Pens kept clean and well drained

Suspect Pen

- Weathertight roof
- Restraining device

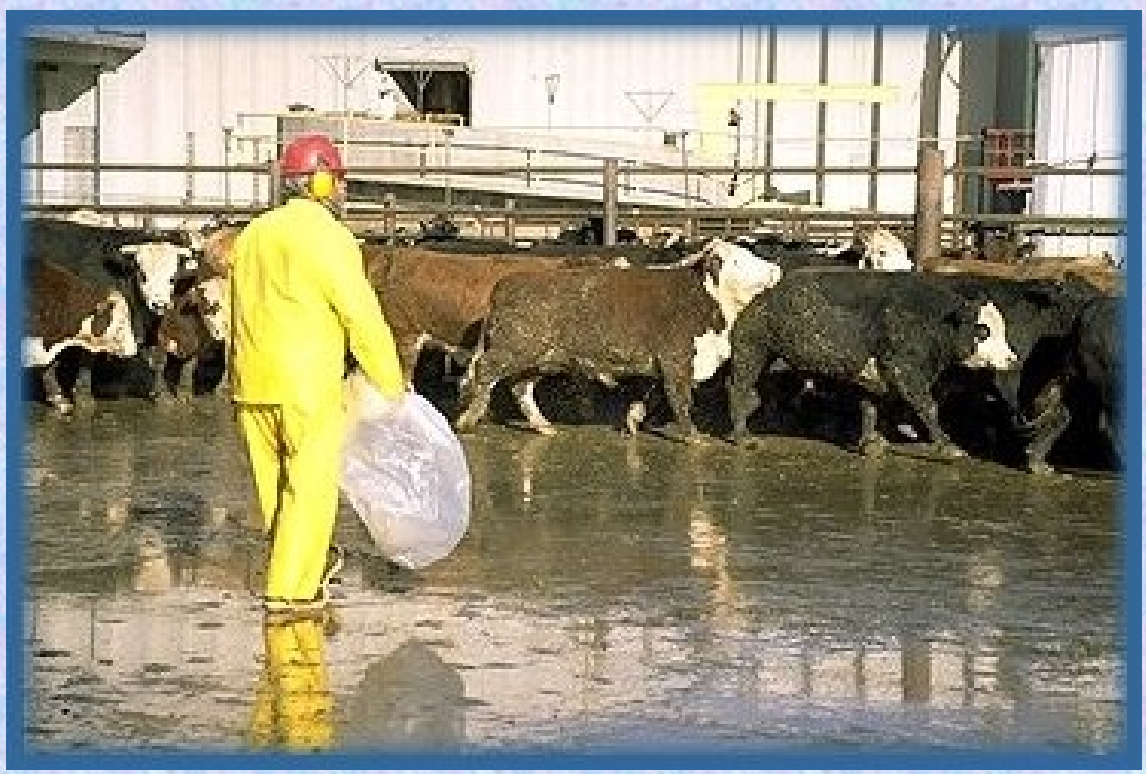


Animal Identification

- Pen Cards
  - Supplied and completed by the plant
  - Must be presented to the PM inspector prior to slaughter

Competent Assistance

- To drive, sort, segregate animals
- Must be provided by the plant



2 Phases of AM Inspection

- Observe all animals at rest
- Observe all animals in motion
  - from both sides

At-rest Inspection

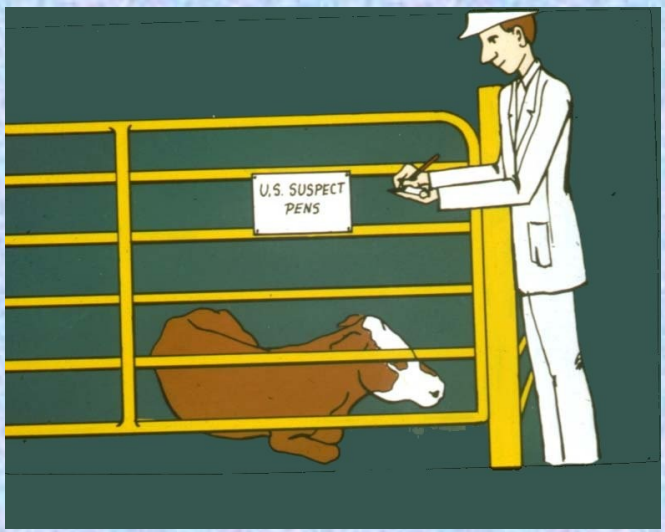
- Observe behavior
  - excessive excitability or depression
- Observe appearance

In-motion Inspection

- Observe for
  - abnormal locomotion
  - pathology

Antemortem Actions

- Pass normal animals for slaughter
- Segregate abnormal animals
  - notify VMO



Abnormal Signs

- Significant or Insignificant?
  - Insignificant examples
    - Broken tail
    - Small wounds
    - Broken horn
  - Significant examples
    - Large or deep wounds
    - Abnormal locomotion
    - Swellings

Abnormal Signs

- Lameness
  - may be due to arthritis

Abnormal Signs

- CNS Diseases
  - Disorientation
  - Circling
  - Head tilt
  - Staggering
  - Apprehensio

Abnormal Signs

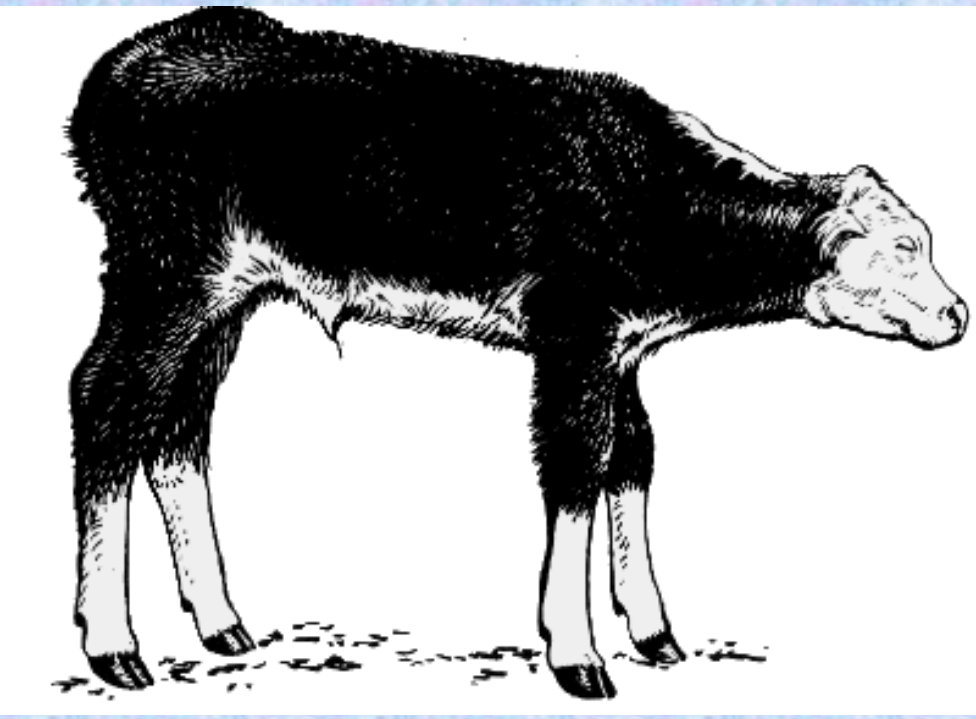
- Toxins/Poisons
  - will often produce CNS signs

Abnormal Signs

- Moribund/Dying

Abnormal Signs

- Tranquilized animals
  - dull
  - disinterested



Abnormal Signs

- Itching/Rubbing
  - scabies
  - lice

Abnormal Signs

- Body position
- Straining

Abnormal Signs

- “Downers”

Abnormal Signs

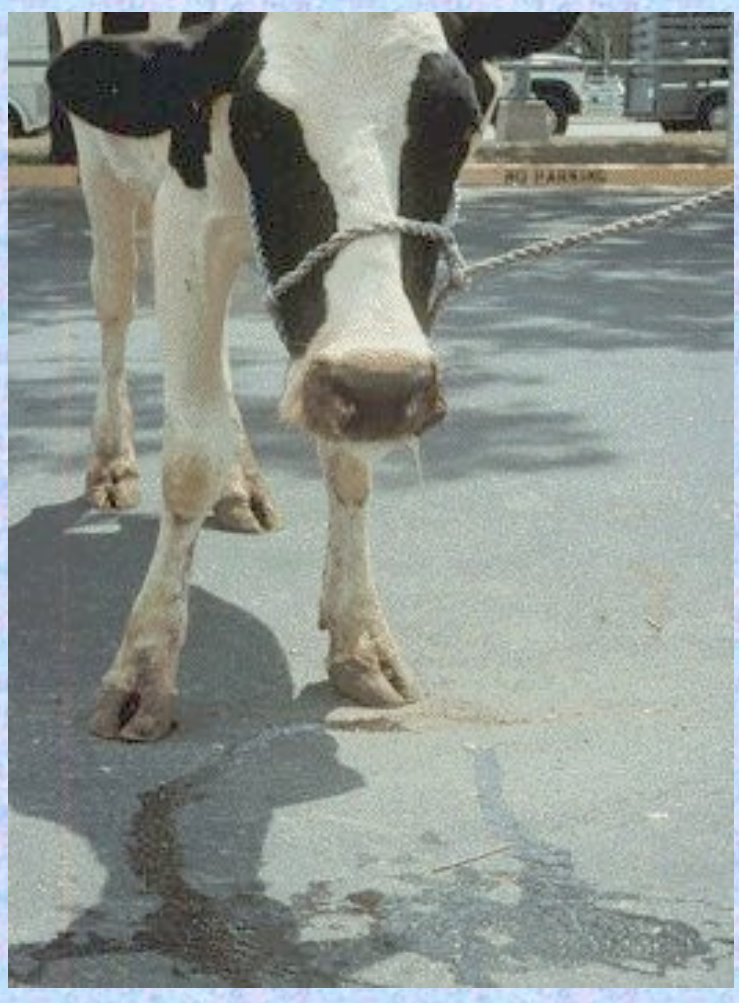
- Body Condition
  - emaciation versus thinness

Abnormal Signs

- Immaturity - calves
  - weak, thin, dehydrated

Abnormal Signs

- Abnormal body functions
  - respiratory
  - intestinal
  - salivation
  - urinary



Abnormal Signs

- Swellings
  - Abscess
  - Tumors
  - Arthritis

Abnormal Signs

- Skin/mucous membranes
  - tumors/swellings
  - discoloration
  - ulcers
  - blisters

Reportable Diseases

- Examples
  - foot and Mouth
  - screwworms
  - anthrax
  - blue-tongue
  - hog cholera
  - rinderpest
  - scabies

“Acti”

- Lumpy Jaw - actinomycosis
- Wooden Tongue - actinobacillosis

Epithelioma

- “Cancer Eye”

Eye Missing

- Suspect for Epithelioma

Parturition

- Withhold from slaughter until after placenta is passed

If a Suspect Dies Prior to Slaughter:

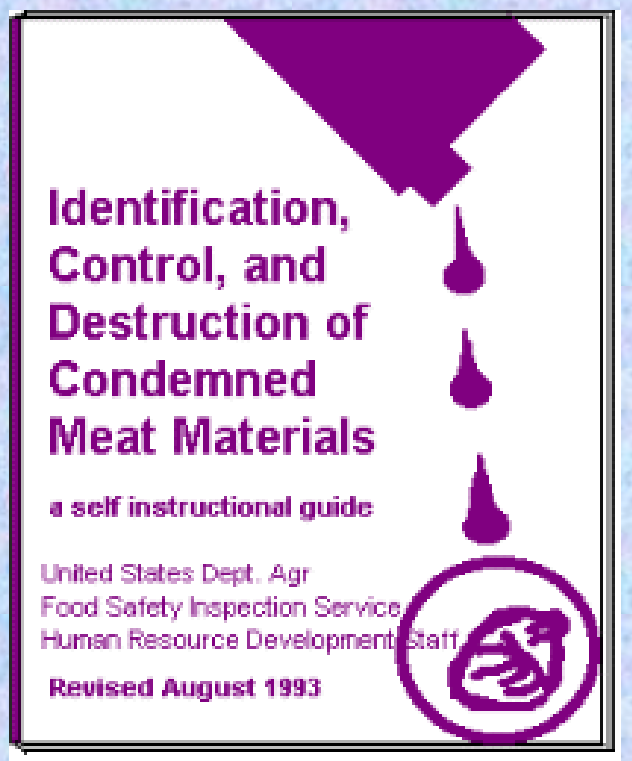
- You must:
  - have the U.S. Suspect tag removed and replace it with a U.S. Condemned tag.

DOA's or DIP's

- You must
  - Have a U. S. Condemned tag placed in the ear
  - Complete 6150-1
  - Have animal p
  - Notify the VM

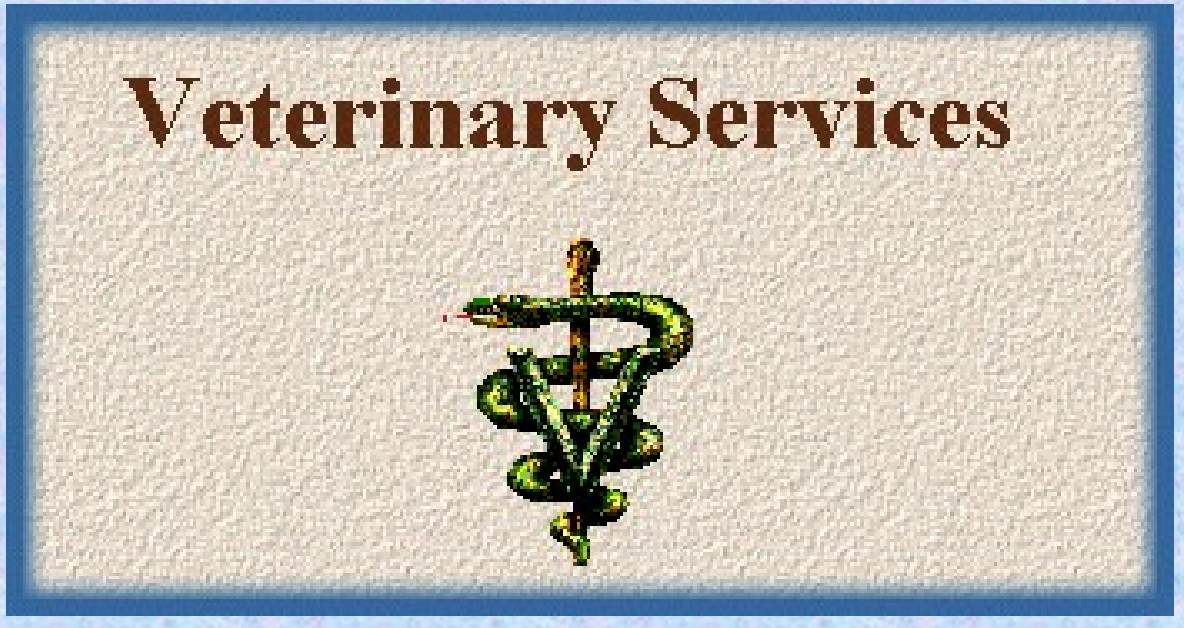
Disposal of U.S. Condemned Animals

- If alive, must humanely kill
- 2 means of disposal
  - Off-premise rendering
    - must denature carcass
  - On-premise rendering


Identification, Control, and Destruction of Condemned Meat Materials
a self instructional guide
United States Dept. Agr
Food Safety Inspection Service
Human Resource Development Staff
Revised August 1993

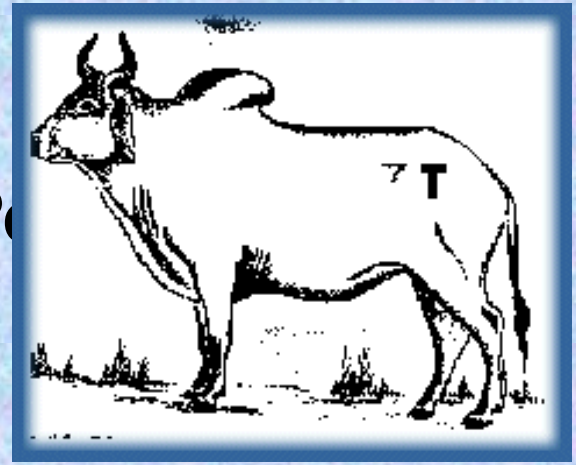
Condemned for Reportable Disease

- Hold in an identified pen
- Hold for VS officials



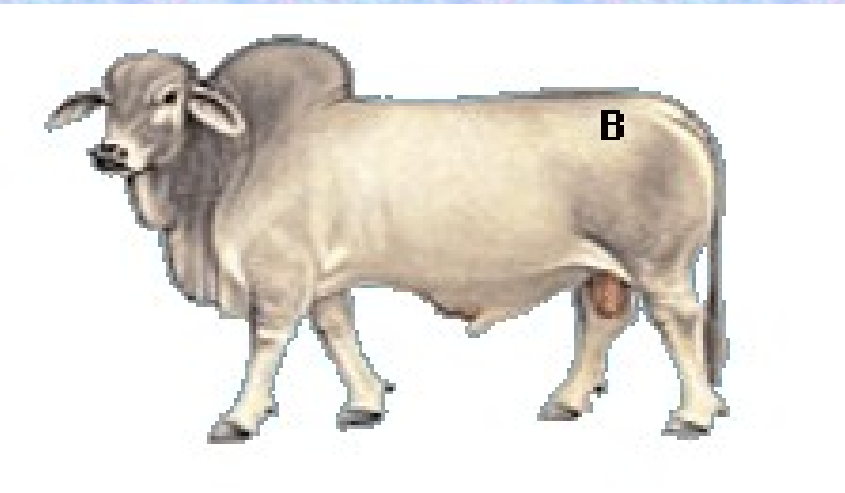
Specially Identified Animals

- TB Reactors
  - Accompanied by a VS Form 1-27
  - “T” branded on left hip
  - Reactor eartag
  - Place animal in Suspect P
  - Notify VMO
  - If condemned…..
    - VMO will do PM in inedible area



Specially Identified Animals

- Brucellosis Reactors
  - Accompanied by VS Form 1-27
  - “B” Brand on left hip
  - Reactor eartag
  - No special AM handling
    - Exception - Reactor goats cannot be slaughtered



Alternative AM Inspection

- In high volume plants
- District Manager must approve
- Plant segregates abnormal animals
- Inspection performed AM by……
  - Observing 100% of animals at rest
  - Observing 5-10% in motion

Delayed Slaughter

- In low volume establishments
- Approved by Circuit Supervisor
- AM performed the afternoon prior to slaughter the next morning

The End